(b) by what percentage the raw silk production in the country will increase as a result thereof;

(c) the percentage of raw silk demand at present met from indigenous production; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government so far in the field of research and development of sericulture and its extension activity in the country and what are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) As compared to the position at the end of VIth Plan, the targets set for Seventh Plan envisage increase of 28.12 per cent in the area under mulberry cultivation and 44.74 per cent in mulberry silk production. It is estimated that these targets will be achieved.

(c) It is estimated that at present about 80 per cent of the demand of raw silk is met from indigenous production.

(d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments so encourage the development of the silk industry, the Central Silk Board has established the following major units in the country for R & D and Extension support:

(i) 3 Central Sericulture Research & Training Institute.

(ii) 1 Central Technological Research and Training Institute.

(iii) 15 Regional Sericulture Research Stations.

(iv) 64 Research & Extension Centres.

(v) 21 Silkworm Seed Production Centres under the National Silkworm Seed Project.

As a result of research achievement in a span of ten years average per hectare productivity of raw silk has increased from 25 Kgs to 32.5 Kgs. In addition, the renditta has been cut down from 17 to 10, that is; 10 Kgs. of cocoons produces one Kg. of raw silk as compared to 17 Kgs. of cocoons producing 1 Kg. of Silk earlier.

Nationalisation of Scindia Steam Navigation Company

768. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under their consideration a proposal for the nationalisation of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi of the 8th January, 1988;

(b) whether the study by the Ministry on this issue has been completed; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter regarding the future of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. is receiving attention of Government.

Central Trade Service

769. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Trade Service, whose officers are manning the various Offices under the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, is an Organised Group 'A' Service;